

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

September 8, 2009

In the past several months, the US Education Secretary outlined federal requirements for "Race to the Top," a \$4.35 billion competitive grant program in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) designed to support education reform and innovation. A primary focus of this program is to improve education by linking teacher performance to student progress, supporting innovative educational models such as charter schools, and a targeted effort to address the lowest 5% of under-performing schools. Unfortunately, the state laws that govern education in California currently render our state ineligible to apply for this funding. Yet there is a significant effort underway in Sacramento to seek proposed legislation that would change these laws to conform to the federal government's eligibility requirements so California can compete for these dollars.

There is overwhelming need for reform and change in the approach to education; no where more so than in our camp schools and community day schools, which serve as the educational home to thousands of young people who face significant academic and personal challenges and are arguably at the highest risk of further incarceration and at-risk behavior. These are precisely the type of students this federal funding is designed to reach, and it would be tragic if arcane state laws barred us from this significant opportunity to compete for these funds.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

For two years now, the Board has been pushing assertively for educational reform within the juvenile justice system - including implementation of charter schools. The "Race to the Top" program is well aligned with what we are seeking to accomplish, and I believe that we should strongly support any effort at the state level to optimally align state laws and regulations to ensure California can compete for these funds.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five signature letter to the Governor, the Assembly Speaker and the Senate Pro-Tem, stating strong support for legislation that would support California's ability to apply for "Race to the Top" federal funding, on the basis that it would benefit young people in the juvenile justice system.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer work with the Chief Probation Officer and the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools and report to the Board within 14 days as to how "Race to the Top" funding would benefit efforts to reform education in the juvenile justice system, in particular the implementation of one dependent charter school for girls and one independent charter school for boys, as previously ordered by the Board of Supervisors.

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